2. Mr. High-Mind

It is impossible for one man, however determined and cunning lie may be, to impose his will on other men for long unless they recognise themselves in him.[1] This applies just as much in an absolutist as in a democratic state. A tyrant may linger on for a little while after those over whom he rules and he have become strangers, but not for long. He must fall as surely as a prime minister without a parliamentary majority. No Ogpu or Gestapo or Ovra is strong enough to sustain the authority of a dictator who is not to a certain extent a mirror held up to his people. Even the Indian princes, most pitiable of all rulers, abdicate or are deposed or just die of inanition, when the gulf between them and their subjects becomes too wide. Louis XIV might more truthfully have said *'Le Peuple, cest moi* than *L'j£frtf, *cest moi*[9]. There is no state apart from the people. Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, Demagogues, Lamas, Popes, Caliphs, all who enjoy their little moment of authority, do so by virtue of momentarily embodying the hopes, fears, desires, dreads, resentments, the whole character of those over whom they have been set. The blind lead the blind because there are none who see. And if there were, would the sightless deliver themselves over to them? Rather gouge out their eyes, too.

There is no

[1]cf. Hobbes's *Every particular man is author of all the sovereign doth; and consequently he that complaineth of injury from his sovereign, complaineth of that whereof he himself is author; and therefore ought not to accuse any man but himself; no nor himself of injury, because to do injury to oneself is impossible.'